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| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR    | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/750,074  | 12/31/2003  | Alan Jack Johan Laninga | 542530-0001         | 2082             |
| 7590  | 05/13/2005  |                         | EXAMINER            |                  |
| Miller Nash LLP (Devon Ryning)<br>4400 Two Union Square<br>601 Union Street<br>Seattle, WA 98101-1367 |             |                         | KAUFMAN, JOSEPH A   |                  |
|   |             |                         | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|   |             |                         | 3754                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 05/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                        |                     |  |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|                              | 10/750,074             | LANINGA ET AL.      |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b>        | <b>Art Unit</b>     |  |
|                              | Joseph A. Kaufman      | 3754                |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 April 2005.

2a) This action is **FINAL**.                            2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 15-18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-9 and 11-14 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 10 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/30/2004.
- Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

***Election/Restrictions***

1. Claims 15-18 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected method, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on April 1, 2005.
2. Applicant's election with traverse of the apparatus claims in the reply filed on April 1, 2005 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that there is no undue burden on the examiner. This is not found persuasive because applicant does not determine what is undue burden for the examiner.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

***Specification***

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: numeral 11, first discussed on page 3, line 12, is not shown in the drawings.

Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
5. Claims 1-9 and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oike in view of George.

Oike discussed a handle having a hollow shell as the plastic/resin wood-grain finish discussed column 1, lines 51-53; and the specific foam fillings discussed in column 1, line 47, column 2, line 68 – column 3, line 1 and column 3, line 27. Oike lacks the handle being a tap handle, the material for the outer shell, and the details of the handle structure. George shows a tap handle 70 having an open end as seen in Figure 2 and a ferrule with threads that attaches to threaded post 72 as seen in Figure 2. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to make other handle structures like the tap of George with the materials of Oike in order to make a tap that is inexpensive and resistant to damage. The specific materials for the shell would have been obvious based on aesthetic considerations and the desired strength of the shell. Finally, employing glue in the open part of the shell would have been obvious in order to better and more permanently attach the handle to the remaining portion of the valve.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

6. Claim 10 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

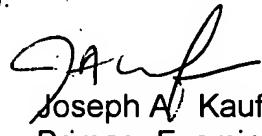
***Conclusion***

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Augustinus, Gruenwald, Fallon et al., and Beyerlein show other tap handle structures.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph A. Kaufman whose telephone number is (571) 272-4928. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 5:30AM-2PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Mar can be reached on (571) 272-4906. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Joseph A. Kaufman  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3754

5/9/05

jak  
May 9, 2005